

Glossary

Abuse	When a child is suffering from, has sustained, or may be in immediate danger of suffering from or sustaining a wound; injury; disability; or physical or mental condition caused by brutality, neglect, or other actions or inaction of a parent, relative, guardian, or caretaker.
Adjudication	Judicial fact finding determination (judgment) of a case (e.g., guilty or not guilty).
Administrative Review	The periodic evaluation and assessment of a referral/case by juvenile court staff other than a judge.
Aftercare	The supervision given to a child for a limited period of time after they are released from commitment to a state agency.
Age Calculation	The calculation of age is based on the juvenile's birth date and the date of first referral to juvenile court in the calendar year.
Annual Reporting Period	Calendar year.
Burglary	The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft.
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate (usually volunteers) who serve to ensure that the needs and interests of a child in child protection judicial proceedings are fully protected.
Case	All Referral Reasons/Charges reported to the court (via complaint, petition, motion, etc.) on a given day for a given child.
Case Held Open	A decision by the court concerning a case has been postponed pending further review.
CSA	Community Service Agency
Commitment	A decision by the judge that a child should be sent to a state agency for monitoring or care of the child.
Contempt of Court	A willful disobedience of a court order or willful interference with the administration of justice.
Crime Index	Includes homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, rape, larceny and burglary.
Custodian	A person, other than a parent or legal guardian, who stands in loco parentis to the child or a person to whom temporary legal custody of the child has been given by order of the court.
Custody	Control of the actual physical care of the child. T.C.A. § 37-1-102.

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DCS	The Tennessee Department of Children's Services.
Delinquency	Acts or conduct in violation of criminal law.
Delinquent Act	An act committed by a juvenile that, if committed by an adult, would require prosecution in a criminal court. Because the act is committed by a juvenile it falls within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.
Dependency Case	Those cases covering neglect or inadequate care on the part of parents or guardians, such as abandonment or desertion; abuse or cruel treatment; improper or inadequate conditions in the home; and insufficient care or support resulting from death, absence, or physical or mental incapacity of parents.
Detention	The placement of youth in a restrictive facility between referral to court and the first court hearing (Detention Hearing). A youth may also be placed in a detention facility as a case progresses through the juvenile justice system.
Disposition	Definitive action taken or treatment plan decided on regarding a particular case. (e.g., a course of treatment and rehabilitation).
Disposition Date	The date that the disposition (outcome) or the informal adjustment of each referral took place. This is the date on which all reports produced by TCJFCJ are based.
Ethnicity	The condition of belonging to a particular ethnic group.
Formal Adjudication	Items requiring a formal adjudicatory hearing and a finding of fact. These actions can only be carried out by judges or referees.
Foster Care Review	(T.C.A. § 37-2-406) A review of each foster care plan via an advisory review board and/or the juvenile court judge.
Foster Family Home	A family home that receives payment or board for offering shelter to a juvenile. Also included in this item are those family homes that are, "subsidized" so they will always be available to provide foster or shelter care.
Guardian ad Litem	A licensed attorney appointed to represent the best interests of a child.
Held Open for Review	A case held open for judicial or administrative review and no further disposition is anticipated prior to the next scheduled review.

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Illegal Conduct	Delinquent offense such as possession or sale of controlled substances, disorderly conduct, criminal trespass, etc.
Immigrant	One who leaves a country to settle permanently in another.
Independent	A child is living in an apartment, or living as a lodger without adult supervision, or living as a married young adult who has established his/her own family.
Informal Adjustment	A non-judicial procedure whereby the juvenile court staff, subject to court approval, makes the decision to attempt to remedy the situation alleged in the referral by giving counsel and advice to the parent(s) and child. This is a voluntary agreement in which no official finding of fact is made. Informal adjustments may be initiated with or without a petition.
Institution	Juvenile correctional or rehabilitation center.
Intake	Intake process during which a referred case is first screened. During this process the case may be dismissed for lack of legal sufficiency, or to resolve the matter formally, or informally.
Jail – Complete Separation	The child is placed in an adult jail or lock-up completely separated by sight and sound from all adult prisoners including trustees. Includes those cases where the child is temporarily held in this secure situation while awaiting the arrival of the adult custodian.
Jail – Partial Separation	The child is placed in an adult jail or lock-up where: 1.) conversation between adults and juveniles may be possible; 2.) adults and juveniles can see each other but no conversation is possible; or 3.) juveniles may be separated by sight and sound from adults but share common areas at times, such as dining, showers, etc. Includes those cases where the child is temporarily held in this secure situation while awaiting the arrival of the adult custodian.
Jail – No Separation	The child is placed in an adult jail or lock-up with no sight or sound separation from adult prisoners. Includes those cases where the child is temporarily held in this secure situation while awaiting the arrival of the adult custodian.
Judge	An elected or appointed person/individual presiding over the juvenile court proceedings.
Judicial Review	Periodic formal reviews of a case or a referral by a judge or referee.

Glossary

Jurisdiction	The right and power to interpret and apply the law.
Juvenile	Any individual under the chronological age of eighteen (18) who has not been previously transferred to adult court.
Juvenile Detention Facility	A secure or physically restricted facility housing only juveniles. Includes those cases where a child is temporarily held in this secure situation while awaiting the arrival of the adult custodian.
Larceny/Theft	The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession of another.
Minority	A group of persons numbering less than half of a total.
Motion	Oral or written request before, during, or after court hearings on which a court issues a ruling or order.
Non-Secure Placement	The child is placed in a non-secure, physically unrestricted facility such as a group home, shelter facility, temporary holding resource (THR), foster home, attendant care, or is placed on home detention.
Offenses Against Persons	Delinquent offenses such as criminal homicide, assault, rape, etc., that were committed against persons.
Offenses Against Property	Delinquent offenses such as burglary, arson, vandalism, etc., that were committed against property.
Outcome	Result(s) of an informal adjustment, informal judicial action, and/or formal adjudications/actions.
Paternity	Determination of who is the father of a child.
Petition	A document filed in a juvenile court alleging that a juvenile is a delinquent or status offender, or on the child's behalf and asking that the court assume jurisdiction over the juvenile, or juvenile's case.
Placement After Secure Detention	Placement of a child following the detention hearing, but prior to an adjudicatory hearing.
Pretrial Diversion	A procedure similar in nature to informal adjustment, with no official finding as to guilt, except that a judge or referee must approve any agreement.
Probation	Supervision of the child to monitor behavior after finding of guilt.

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Probation Officer	An official of the court whose duties include, but are not limited to, make investigations, reports, and recommendations to the juvenile court, receive and examine complaints and charges of delinquency, supervise and assist a child placed on probation.
Referee	An individual, licensed to practice law in Tennessee, who is appointed by the judge to hear cases. A referee has the same authority and powers as the judge to issue process and conduct proceedings.
Referral	A referral is defined as a complaint, offense or reason that the juvenile court is involved with the child.
Referral Date	The date the child was referred to the court on the current referral reason/charges.
Referral Source	The agency or individual filing a complaint with intake that initiates court proceedings.
Retired or Nolle Prosequi	When a case is retired after having remained open due to some condition, or the prosecuting attorney makes a formal entry on record that he/she will not prosecute the case further (nolle prosequi means unwilling to pursue).
Returned to Prior Living Arrangement	Child is allowed to return to his/her regular place of residence prior to being detained.
Review Concluded	The ongoing review process is concluded.
Review Hearing	Held by the juvenile court to review dispositions and to determine the need to maintain placement in out-of-home care and/or jurisdiction of a child.
Robbery	The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.
Special Proceedings	The referral reason involves a special proceeding wherein the child is not charged with an offense, but the petition/motion requests some action regarding the child that requires the court's attention.
Status/Unruly Offenses	Includes acts or types of conduct that are offenses only when committed or engaged in by a juvenile; these can only be adjudicated by a juvenile court.
Substantiated	A judicial determination that the facts alleged in a referral are true.
Termination of Parental Rights	A legal proceeding forever severing all legal rights and obligations of the parent so that others may adopt the child.

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Transfer to Adult Court	(T.C.A. § 37-1-134) After a petition has been filed alleging delinquency based on conduct that is designated a crime or public offense under the laws, including local ordinances, of this state, the court, before hearing the petition on the merits, may transfer the child to the sheriff of the county to be held according to law and to be dealt with as an adult in the criminal court of competent jurisdiction.
Truant	A child who willfully and unjustifiably fails to attend school when attendance is required by law.
Units of Count	Number of children, cases, referrals, and dispositions or outcomes.
Violent Crime Index	Includes homicide, robbery, forcible rape and aggravated assault.
YSO	Youth Services Officer. An official of the court whose duties include, but are not limited to, juvenile court intake, pre-hearing investigations, referral, supervision, detention screenings, counseling, and/or record keeping.

